

MARILENA ZLATANOU

# AFRODITA

(to Afrodite)

A Song Cycle for Mezzo-soprano solo  
and Women's Vocal Ensemble / Choir, a cappella  
on poetry by SAPPHO (ca 630-ca560 BC)



ΣΑΠΦΩ

Notes on AFRODITA (To Afrodite)

**A Song-Cycle for Mezzo-soprano soloist and Women's Vocal Ensemble / Choir (a cappella)  
on poetry by SAPPHO (ca 630-ca 560 BC)**

**1. Hymn to Afrodite**

The only *complete* extant text by Sappho is composed in Sappho's modus (mixolydian), and in a conscious effort throughout the whole piece to keep the prosody intact. Two versions of performance are provided.

- A. For solo voice with women's choir or vocal ensemble accompaniment (a cappella)
- B. The same solo part may be accompanied in an improvisatory manner by a lyre (when available), or by another sound-equivalent instrument, like the lute, for ex., thus trying to emulate the ancient practice of performance of Sappho's lyrical poetry.

**2. fragments-nature**

Nine fragments assembled as to form an entity, for women's vocal ensemble or choir (a cappella).

**3. fragments-love**

Eleven fragments of Sappho's love-poetry assembled as an entity, in an effort to depict a love-story, for Mezzo-soprano soloist and Women's Vocal Ensemble or Choir (a cappella).

The title is the vocative form of the Love-Goddess's name, in Sappho's own dialect.

**PRONUNCIATION**

As it is impossible to be sure of how Sappho herself would have pronounced her lyrics in her day, modern Greek pronunciation has been chosen, in a direct phonetic transcription with open, non diphthongated vowels.

The vowel sound *ou* should be pronounced as in through, and the following four phonemes in italics:

*th* as in through

*d* as in than

*h* as in Bach

*g* as in ye, also preceding a, o and ou sounds



*Μνάσασθαί τινά φαιμι και έτερον αμμέων*

*(Some people will remember us in the future)*

# AFRODITA

## 1. Hymn to Afrodite

(version a) for Mezzo-soprano solo and Women's Vocal Ensemble /Choir, a cappella

*The only extant complete poem by Sappho. It is composed in Sappho's modus (mixolydian), and in a conscious effort throughout the whole piece to keep the prosody intact.*

Marilena Zlatanou

Sappho

*♩=88 mf* Immortal Aphrodite on your richly crafted throne, daughter of Zeus, weaver of snares, I beg you,

Mezzo-soprano

Ποι - κι - λόθ - ρον' α - θα - νάτ' Αφ ρό - δι - τα, παι Δί - ος δο - λό - πλο - κε, λίσ - σο μαί σε,  
Pi - ki - loth - ron a - tha - nat A - fro - di - ta, pe Di - os do - lo - plo - ke li - so - me se,

Choir SA

3 do not with sorrows and with pains subdue my heart, O Lady,

M-S.

μη μ'ά - σαι - σι μηδ' ο - νί - αι - σι δάμ - να, πότ - νι - α, θύ - μον,  
mi ma - se si mid o - ni - e si dam - na pot - ni - a thi - mon, *(parlando, whispering)*

Choir

Αφ - ρό - δι - τα  
Af-ro-di-ta

6 but come to me, if ever at another time as well, hearing my voice from far away,

M-S.

αλ - λά τύ - ιδ' έλθ', αί πο - τα κα - τέ - ρω - τα τας έ - μας άυ - δας αί - οι - σα πή - λιοι  
al - la ti - id' elth, e po - ta ka - te - ro - ta tas e - mas av - das e - i - sa pi - li

Choir

8 you heeded it, and leaving your father's house of gold, you came,

M-S.

έκ - λυ - ες, πάτ - ρος δε δό - μον λί - ποι σα χρύ - σι - ον ήλ - θες  
ek - li - es, pat - tros de do - mon li - pi - sa hri - si - on il - thes

Choir

*bc*

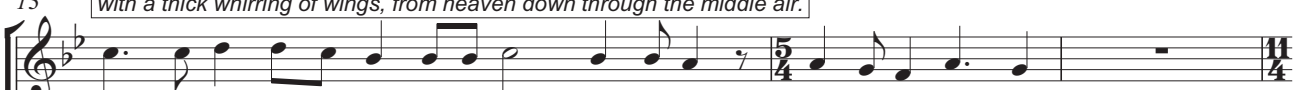
11 yoking your chariot. Graceful sparrows brought you swiftly over the black earth,

M-S.


άρι' υ - πα - δεύ - ξαι - σα, κά - λον δε σ'ά - γον ώ - κε - ες στρού θοι πε - ρί γας με - λαί - νας  
arm i - pa - def - xa - sa ka - lon de sa - gon o - ke - es strou - thi pe - ri gas me - le - nas

Choir

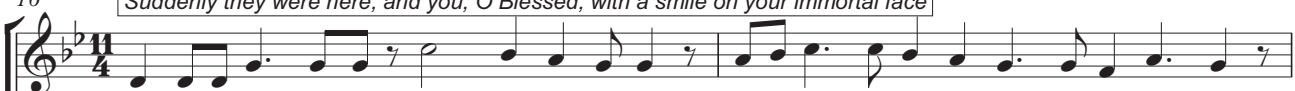
13 *with a thick whirring of wings, from heaven down through the middle air.*

M-S. 


πύκ - να δίν-νεν - τες πτερ' απ' ω - ρά - νω - ι - θε ρος δι - ά μέσ - σω  
pik - na dī - nen-des pter ap o - ra - no - i - the ros dī - a me - so

Choir 

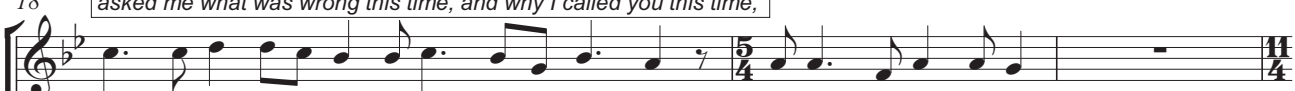
16 *Suddenly they were here, and you, O Blessed, with a smile on your immortal face*

M-S. 


αί - ψα δ'ε - ξί - κον - το, συ δ'ω μά - και - ρα, μει - δι - αί - σαισ'α - θα - νά - τω προ - σώ - πω  
e - psa de - xi - kon - do si do - ma - ke - ra mi - dī - e - ses a - tha - na - to pro - so - po

Choir 

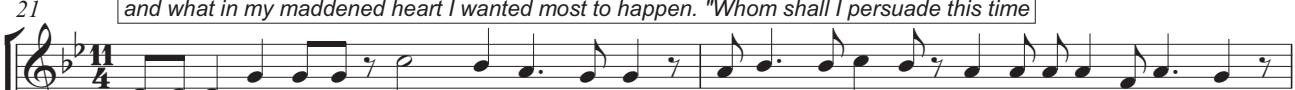
18 *asked me what was wrong this time, and why I called you this time,*

M-S. 

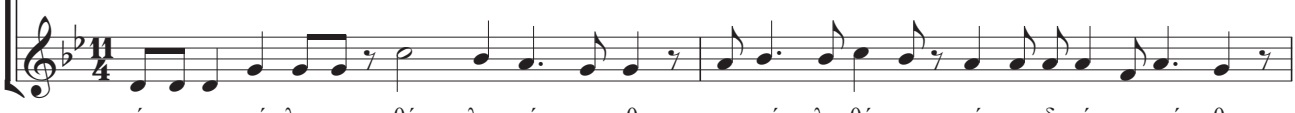
ή - ρε ότ - τι δη - ύ - τε πέ - πον - θα κώτ - τι δη - ύ - τε κάλ - λη - μι,  
i - re o - ti dī - i - te pe - pon - tha ko - ti dī - i - te ka - li - mi,

Choir 

21 *and what in my maddened heart I wanted most to happen. "Whom shall I persuade this time*


M-S. 

κώτ - τι μοι μά - λισ - τα θέ - λω γέ - νες - θαι μαι - νό - λα θύ - μω, τί - να δη - ύ - τε πεί - θω  
ko - ti mi ma - lis - ta the - lo ye - nes - the me - no - la thi - mo, ti - na dī - i - te pi - tho

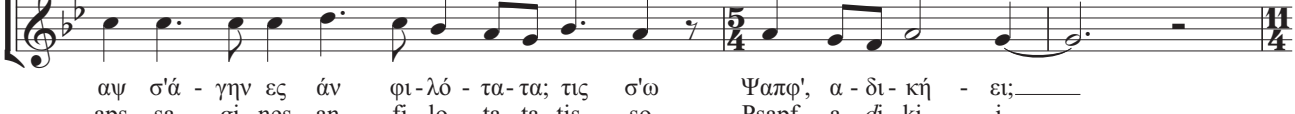
Choir 

κώτ - τι μοι μά - λισ - τα θέ - λω γέ - νες - θαι μαι - νό - λα θύ - μω, τί - να δη - ύ - τε πεί - θω  
ko - ti mi ma - lis - ta the - lo ye - nes - the me - no - la thi - mo, ti - na dī - i - te pi - tho

23 *to welcome you in friendship? Who is it, Sappho, that wrongs you?*

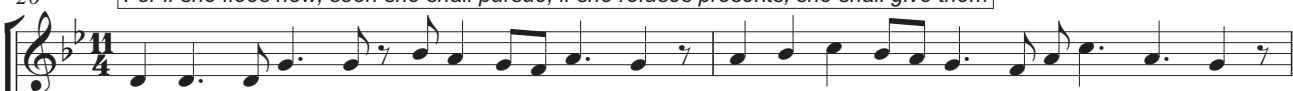
M-S. 


αψ σ'ά - γην ες άν φι - λό - τα - τα; τις σ'ω Ψαπφ', α - δι - κή - ει; \_\_\_\_\_  
aps sa - gi - nes an fi - lo - ta - ta tis so Psapf a dī - ki - i \_\_\_\_\_

Choir 


αψ σ'ά - γην ες άν φι - λό - τα - τα; τις σ'ω Ψαπφ', α - δι - κή - ει; \_\_\_\_\_  
aps sa - gi - nes an fi - lo - ta - ta tis so Psapf a dī - ki - i \_\_\_\_\_


26 *For if she flees now, soon she shall pursue; if she refuses presents, she shall give them*

M-S.    
 και γαρ αι φεύ - γει, τα - χέ - ως δι - ώ - ξει, αι δε δώ - ρα μη δέ - κετ' αλ - λά δώ - σει  
 ke gar e fev - gi, ta - he - os di - o - xi, e de do - ra mi de - ket a - la do - si


Choir    
 και γαρ αι φεύ - γει, τα - χέ - ως δι - ώ - ξει, αι δε δώ - ρα μη δέ - κετ' αλ - λά δώ - σει  
 ke gar e fev - gi, ta - he - os di - o - xi, e de do - ra mi de - ket a - la do - si


28 *if she does not love, soon she shall love even against her will."*

M-S.    
 αι δε μη φί - λει, τα - χέ - ως φι - λή - σει κω - υκ ε - θέ - λει - σα.  
 e de mi fi - li, ta - he - os fi - li - si ko - ik e - the - li - sa

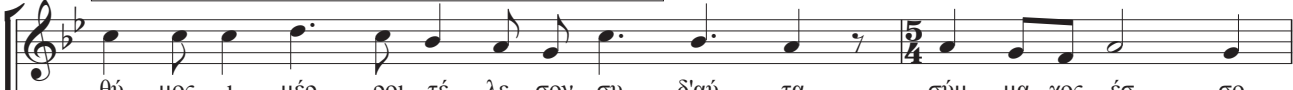
Choir  *p*  
 αι δε μη φί - λει, τα - χέ - ως φι - λή - σει κω - υκ ε - θέ - λει - σα.  
 e de mi fi - li, ta - he - os fi - li - si ko - ik e - the - li - sa.


31 *Come to me now as well; release me from this agony; all that my heart yearns*

M-S.    
 Έλ - θε μοι και νυν, χα - λέ - παν δε λύ - σον εκ με - ρίμ - ναν, όσ - σα δε μοι τέ - λει - σαι  
 El - the mi ke nin, ha - le - pan de li - son ek me - rim - nan, o - sa de mi te - le - se

Choir 

33 *to be achieved, achieve, and be yourself my ally in arms.*

M-S.    
 θύ - μοσ ι - μέρ - ροι, τέ - λε - σον, συ δ' αύ - τα σύμ - μα - χος έσ - σο.  
 thi - mos i - mer - ri, te - le - son, si daf - ta si - ma - hos e - so.

Choir 

35

M-S.    
 σύμ - μα - χος έσ - σο  
 si - ma - hos e - so

Choir    
 σύμ - μα - χος έσ - σο  
 si - ma - hos e - so



# AFRODITA

## 2. fragments-nature

for Women's Vocal Ensemble / Choir, a cappella

*Nine fragments of Sappho's poetry describing nature, assembled as an entity*

Sappho

Marilena Zlatanou

*♩.=33* *mf* *just now the day dawns in golden sandals*

Soprano

αρ - τί - ως μεν α χρυ - σο - πέ - δι - λος Αύ - ως  
ar - ti - os men a hri - so - pe - di - los A - vos

Mezzo-soprano

*bc/a pp*

Alto

*bc/a pp* *mf*

αρ -  
ar -

5

S.

*bc/a p*

M-S.

*bc/a p* *mf*

αρ - τί - ως μεν α χρυ - σο  
ar - ti - os men a hri - so -

A.

τί - ως μεν α χρυ - σο - πέ - δι - λος Αύ - ως *bc/a mp*  
ti - os men a hri - so - pe - di - los A - vos

9

S.

*mf* *a mixture of all kinds of colours*

παν - το - δά - παι - σι με - μειχ - μέ - να χροί - αι - σιν  
pan - do - da - pe - si me - mi h - me - na hri - e - sin

M-S.

πέ - δι - λος Αύ - ως *bc/a mp* *mp* χροί -  
pe - di - los A - vos hri -

A.

14 *mf* the earth adorned by colourful wreaths

S. ποι - κίλ - λε - ται μεν γαί - α πο - λυ -  
ri - ki - le - te men ye - a po - li -

M-S. - αι - σι - - v  
- e - si - - n

A. πο - λυ -  
po - li -

19 *f* more golden than gold

S. στέ - φα - νος χρύ - σω χρυ - σο - τέ - ρα  
ste - fa - nos hri - so hri - so - te - ra

M-S. — πο - λυ - στέ - φα - νος χρύ - σω χρυ - σο - τέ - ρα  
— po - li - ste - fa - nos hri - so hri - so - te - ra

A. στέ - φα - νος — πο - λυ - στέ - φα - νος χρύ - σω χρυ - σο - τέ - ρα  
ste - fa - nos — po - li - ste - fa - nos hri - so hri - so - te - ra

24

S. χρύ - σω χρυ - σο - τέ - ρα χρύ - σω χρυ - σο - τέ - ρα  
hri - so hri - so - te - ra hri - so hri - so - te - ra

M-S. χρύ - σω χρυ - σο - τέ - ρα χρύ - σω χρυ - σο - τέ - ρα  
hri - so hri - so - te - ra hri - so hri - so - te - ra

A. χρύ - σω χρυ - σο - τέ - ρα χρύ - σω χρυ - σο - τέ - ρα  
hri - so hri - so - te - ra hri - so hri - so - te - ra



28 *spring-angel: the beautifully singing nightingale*

*mp*

S. *mp*

ή - ρος άγ - γε - λος ι - με - ρό -  
i - ros an - ge - los i - me - ro -

M-S. *mp*

ή - ρος άγ - γε - λος άγ - γε - λος ι - με - ρό -  
i - ros an - ge - los an - ge - los i - me - ro -

A. *mp*

ή - ρος άγ - γε - λος ι - με - ρό -  
i - ros an - ge - los i - me - ro -

32 *honey-voiced*

*f* *mp*

S. *f* *mp*

- φω - νος α - ή - δων με - λί - φω - νοι  
- fo - nos a - i - don me - li - fo - ni

M-S. *f* *mp*

- φω - νος α - ή - δων με - λί - φω - νοι  
- fo - nos a - i - don me - li - fo - ni

A. *f* *mp*

- φω - νος α - ή - δω - ν με -  
- fo - nos a - i - do - n do - n me -

37 *mp* *the evening star is the most beautiful of all*

S. *mp*

ασ - τέ - ρων πάν - των ο κάλ - λι - στος  
as - te - ron pan - don o ka - li - stos

M-S. *mp*

ασ - τέ - ρων κάλ - λι - στος  
as - te - ron ka - lis - tos

A. *mp*

λί - φω - νοι κάλ - λι - στος  
li - fo - ni ka - lis - tos

*Hesperos (evening), bringing all things back which bright Dawn scattered,  
you bring the sheep, you bring the goat, you bring the child back to its mother.*

42

S. *mp*  
 Έσ - πε - ρε πάν - τα φέ - ρω - ν  
 Es - pe-re pan - da fe - ro - n

M-S. *mp*  
 Έσ - πε - ρε πάν - τα φέ - ρω - ν  
 Es - pe-re pan - da fe - ro - n

A. *mp*  
 ό - σα  
 o - sa

46

S.  
 ό - σα φαί - νο - λισ εσ - κέ - δασ' αύ - ως, φέ - ρεις  
 o - sa fe - no - lis es - ke - das a - vos, fe - ris

M-S.  
 φέ - ρεις ό - ιν  
 fe - ris o - in

A.  
 φαί - νο - λισ εσ - κέ - δασ' αύ - ως, *bc/a*  
 fe - no - lis es - ke - das a - vos,

50

S. *mf*  
 ό - ιν φέ - ρεις αί - γα, φέ - ρεις ά - πυ  
 o - in fe - ris e - ga fe - ris a - pi

M-S. *mf*  
 φέ - ρεις ό - ιν φέ - ρεις ά - πυ μά - τε - ρι  
 fe - ris o - in fe - ris a - pi ma - te - ri

A. *mf*  
 φέ - ρεις αί - γα, φέ - ρεις αί - γα, φέ - ρεις ά - πυ μά - τε - ρι παί - δα...  
 fe - ris e - ga, fe - ris e - ga, fe - ris a - pi ma - te - ri pe - da...

54

S. *bc/a pp*  
 μά - τε-ρι παί - - - - - δα  
 ma - te-ri pe - - - - - da

M-S. *bc/a pp*  
 παί - - - - - δα  
 pe - - - - - da

A. *bc/a pp*

59

S.

M-S.

A.

64

*mp* *bc/a pp*  
 Around the beautiful moon the stars withdraw the radiance  
 of their form whenever, at her fullest, she shines over earth...

S. *bc/a pp*  
 άσ - τε - ρες μεν αμ - φί κά - λαν σε - λάν - ναν  
 as - te - res men am - fi ka - lan se - la - nan

M-S. *bc/a pp*

A. *bc/a pp*

68 *mp*

S. *bc/a p*  
 αψ α - πυκ - ρύπ - ται - σι φά - εν - νον εί - δος  
 aps a - ri - kriρ - ti - si fa - e - non i - dos

M-S. *bc/a p*

A. *bc/a p*

71 *mf*

S. *mf*  
 όπ - πο - τα πλή - θαι - σα μά - λισ - τα λάμ - πι  
 o - po ta pli - thi - sa ma lis - ta lam - bi

M-S. *mf*  
 A\_\_\_\_\_

A. *mf*  
 A\_\_\_\_\_

74 *mf* *f* *ppp*

S. *f* *ppp*  
 A\_\_\_\_\_ γα - - - - v  
 ga - - - - n

M-S. *f* *ppp*  
 A\_\_\_\_\_ γα - - - - v  
 ga - - - - n

A. *f* *ppp*  
 A\_\_\_\_\_ γα - - - - v  
 ga - - - - n

# AFRODITA

## 3. fragments-love

for Mezzo-soprano solo and Womens's Vocal Ensemble / Choir, a cappella

Eleven fragments of Sappho's love-poetry assembled as an entity, in an effort to depict a love-story

Sappho

♩=100

Marilena Zlatanou

Voice

Soprano

Mezzo-soprano

Alto

*mp*

A

μά - τερ γλυ-κει-α α μά - τερ γλυ-κει-α α  
ma - ter gli - ki - a a ma - ter gli - ki - a a

I tell you, sweet mother, I cannot weave at the loom,  
subdued by longing for a boy through slender Aphrodite.

Voice

S.

M-S.

A.

*mp*

*bc p*

*mp*

*bc p*

*mp*

γλό - κη-α μά - τερ, ού - ται δού - να-μαι κρέ - κειν τον  
gli - ki - a ma - ter ou - ti di - na-me kre - kin ton

μά - τερ γλυ-κει-α α  
ma - ter gli - ki - a a

μά - τερ γλυ-κει-α α  
ma - ter gli - ki - a a

μά - τερ γλυ-κει-α α  
ma - ter gli - ki - a a

Voice

S.

M-S.

A.

*f*

ίς - - τον πό - - θω δά - μει-σα παί - - δος  
is - - ton po - - tho da - mi-sa pe - - dos

μά - τερ γλυ-κει-α α μά - τερ γλυ-κει-α α μά - τερ γλυ-κει-α α  
ma - ter gli - ki - a a ma - ter gli - ki - a a ma - ter gli - ki - a a

μά - τερ γλυ-κει-α α A  
ma - ter gli - ki - a a

μά - τερ γλυ-κει-α α A  
ma - ter gli - ki - a a

13

Voice

βρα - δί - ναν δι'Αφ-ρο - δί - ταν.  
vra - di - nan diAf - ro - di - tan.

S.

μά - τερ γλυ-κει-α α μά - τερ α  
ma - ter gli - ki - a a ma - ter a

M-S.

A.

*mf*

Έ-ρος δ'ε  
E - ros de

17

Voice

Love shook my mind like a wind falling on oak-trees on a mountain.

S.

*mf*

Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας,  
E - ros de - ti - na - xe mi fre - nas

M-S.

*mf*

Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας,  
E - ros de - ti - na - xe mi fre - nas E - ros de - ti - na - xe mi fre - nas

A.

Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας,  
E - ros de - ti - na - xe mi fre - nas E - ros de - ti - na - xe mi fre - nas E - ros de - ti - na - xe mi fre - nas

20

Voice

*f*

ως ά - νε-μος κατ' ό - ρος δρυ - σιν εμ - πέ - των  
os a - ne-mos kat o - ros dri - sin em - be - ton

S.

Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας,  
E - ros de - ti - na - xe mi fre - nas E - ros de - ti - na - xe mi fre - nas E - ros de - ti - na - xe mi fre - nas

M-S.

Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας,  
E - ros de - ti - na - xe mi fre - nas E - ros de - ti - na - xe mi fre - nas E - ros de - ti - na - xe mi fre - nas

A.

Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας,  
E - ros de - ti - na - xe mi fre - nas E - ros de - ti - na - xe mi fre - nas E - ros de - ti - na - xe mi fre - nas

23

Voice

Σ.

M-S.

A.

Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας,  
E-ros de-ti-na-xe mi fre-nas

Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας,  
E-ros de-ti-na-xe mi fre-nas E-ros de-ti-na-xe mi fre-nas E-ros de-ti-na-xe mi fre-nas

Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας,  
E-ros de-ti-na-xe mi fre-nas E-ros de-ti-na-xe mi fre-nas E-ros de-ti-na-xe mi fre-nas

Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας,  
E-ros de-ti-na-xe mi fre-nas E-ros de-ti-na-xe mi fre-nas E-ros de-ti-na-xe mi fre-nas

26

Voice

Σ.

M-S.

A.

*f*

ως ά - νε-μος κατ' ό - ρος δρύ - σιν εμ - πέ - των  
os a - ne-mos kat o - ros dri - sin em - be - ton

ως ά - νε-μος κατ' ό - ρος δρύ - σιν εμ - πέ - των Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας,  
os a - ne-mos kat o - ros dri - sin em - be - ton E-ros de-ti-na-xe mi fre-nas

ως ά - νε-μος κατ' ό - ρος δρύ - σιν εμ - πέ - των Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας,  
os a - ne-mos kat o - ros dri - sin em - be - ton E-ros de-ti-na-xe mi fre-nas

30

Voice

Σ.

M-S.

A.

Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, φρέ-νας, φρέ-νας,  
E-ros de-ti-na-xe mi fre-nas fre-nas fre-nas

Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, φρέ-νας, φρέ-νας, φρέ-νας, φρέ-νας, φρέ-νας,  
E-ros de-ti-na-xe mi fre-nas fre-nas fre-nas fre-nas fre-nas fre-nas

Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, φρέ-νας, φρέ-νας, φρέ-νας, φρέ-νας,  
E-ros de-ti-na-xe mi fre-nas fre-nas fre-nas fre-nas fre-nas

Έ-ρος δ'ε-τί-να-ξέ μοι φρέ-νας, φρέ-νας, φρέ-νας, φρέ-νας, φρέ-νας,  
E-ros de-ti-na-xe mi fre-nas fre-nas fre-nas fre-nas fre-nas

## Zlatanou: fragments-love

You came, and I was yearning for you; you plunged  
my heart into coolness when it flamed with longing.

33

Voice

S.

M-S.

A.

*mp*

*ad lib, parlato*

νας, φρένας  
nas frenas

ήλ - θες, έ - γω δε σ'ε-μαι - ό - μαν,  
il - thes, e - go de se-me - o - man

*mp*

ήλ - θες, ήλ - θες, έ - γω δε σ'ε-μαι -  
il - thes il - thes, e - go de se-me-

*ad lib, parlato*

φρέ-νας, φρένας  
fre-nas frenas

ήλ - θες, ήλ - θες, έ - γω  
il - thes il - thes, e - go

*mp*

φρέ - νας, ήλ - θες, ήλ - θες, ήλ - θες, ήλ - θες,  
fre - nas il - thes il - thes, il - thes, il - thes, il - thes,

41

Voice

S.

M-S.

A.

*f*

ον δ'έ-ψυ-ξας έ - μαν φρέ - να και - ο - μέ - ναν πό - θω.  
on de-psi-xas e - man fre - na ke - o - me - nan po - tho

*f*

ό - μαν, ον δ'έ-ψυ-ξας έ - μαν φρέ - να και - ο - μέ - ναν πό - θω.  
o - man on de-psi-xas e - man fre - na ke - o - me - nan po - tho

*f*

δε σ'ε-μαι - ό - μαν, ον δ'έ - ψυ - ξας έ - μαν φρέ - να και - ο - μέ - ναν πό - θω.  
de se-me - o - man on de - psi-xas e - man fre - na ke - o - me - nan po - tho

*mf*

ήλ - θες, ήλ - θες, ήλ - θες, ήλ - θες, και - ο  
il - thes, il - thes, il - thes, il - thes, ke - o-

48

Voice

S.

M-S.

A.

*f*

*mp*

και - ο - μέ - ναν πό - θω. μυ - θο -  
ke - o - me - nan po - tho mi - tho-

*mf*

και - ο - μέ - ναν πό - θω. μυ - θο - πλό - κος μυ - θο -  
ke - o - me - nan po - tho mi - tho - plo - kos mi - tho-

*mf*

μέ - ναν πό - θω. και - ο - μέ - ναν πό - θω. μυ - θο -  
me - nan po - tho ke - o - me - nan po - - - tho mi - tho-

*the story-teller (love)*



57 Once again Love drives me on, that loosener of limbs,  
bittersweet creature against which nothing can be done.

**Voice**  
*mp*  
Έ - ρος δη - ύ - τέμ'  
E - ros di - i - tem

**S.**  
*mp*  
πλό - κος έ - ρος  
plo - kos e - ros

**M-S.**  
*mp*  
πλό - κος Έ - ρος δη - ύ - τέμ'  
plo - kos E - ros di - i - tem

**A.**  
*mp*  
πλό - - - - - κος Έ - - - - ρος  
plo - - - - - kos E - - - - ros

---

60 *mf*

**Voice**  
*mf*  
ο λυ - σι - μέ - - - λης δό - νει  
o li - si - me - - - lis do - - - ni

**S.**  
*mf*  
ο λυ - σι - μέ - - - λης δό - νει  
o li - si - me - - - lis do - - - ni

**M-S.**  
*mf*  
ο λυ - σι - μέ - - - λης  
o li - si - me - - - lis

**A.**  
*mf*  
ο λυ - σι - μέ - λης δό - νει  
o li - si - me - lis do - ni

---

61

**Voice**  
γλυ - κύ - πικ - ρον  
gli - ki - pik - ron

**S.**  
γλυ - κύ - πικ - ρον  
gli - ki - pik - ron

**M-S.**  
γλυ - κύ - πικ - ρον  
gli - ki - pik - ron

**A.**  
γλυ - κύ - πικ - ρον  
gli - ki - pik - ron

62

Voice

α - μά - χα - von  
a - ma - ha - non

S.

α - μά - χα - von  
a - ma - ha - non

M-S.

α - μά - χα - von  
a - ma - ha - non

A.

α - μά - χα - von  
a - ma - ha - non

63

Voice

*f* γλυ - κύ - πικ - ρον α - μά - χα - von όρ - πε - τον  
gli - ki - pik - ron a - ma - ha - non or - pe - ton

S.

*f* γλυ - κύ - πικ - ρον α - μά - χα - von όρ - πε - τον όρ - πε - τον όρ - πε - τον  
gli - ki - pik - ron a - ma - ha - non or - pe - ton or - pe - ton or - pe - ton

M-S.

*f* γλυ - κύ - πικ - ρον α - μά - χα - von όρ - πε - τον όρ - πε - τον όρ - πε - τον  
gli - ki - pik - ron a - ma - ha - non or - pe - ton or - pe - ton or - pe - ton

A.

*f* γλυ κύ - πικ - ρον α - μά - χα - von όρ - πε - τον όρ - πε - τον όρ - πε - τον  
gli - ki - pik - ron a - ma - ha - non or - pe - ton or - pe - ton or - pe - ton

66

Voice

*pain-giving*

*mp* The moon has set, and the Pleiades; it is midnight, and time is passing; and I lie alone.

S.

αλ - γε - σί - δω - ρο - ν δέ - δυ - κε μεν α σε - λάν - να και Πληί - α - δες,  
al - ge - si - do - ro - n de - di - ke men a - se - la - na ke Pli - i - a - des,

M-S.

αλ - γε - σί - δω - ρο - ν *bc/a p*  
al - ge - si - do - ro - n

A.

αλ - γε - σί - δω - ρο - ν *bc/a p*  
al - ge - si - do - ro - n

73 *mf*

Voice

έ - γω δε μό - να κα - θεύ - δω  
e - go - de mo - na ka - thev - do

S.

μέ - σαι δε νύκ - τες, πα - ρά δ'ερ - χετ' ό - ρα,  
me - se de nik - tes, pa - ra der - het o - ra,

M-S.

A.

80 *mf*

Voice

έ - γω δε μό - να κα - θεύ - δω  
e - go de mo - na ka - thev - do

S.

έ - γω δε μό - να κα - θεύ - δω  
e - go de mo - na ka - thev - do

M-S.

έ - γω δε μό - να κα - θεύ - δω  
e - go de mo - na ka - thev - do

A.

έ - γω δε μό - να κα - θεύ - δω  
e - go de mo - na ka - thev - do

85 *mf*

Voice

οί - αν ταν υ - ά - κιν - θον εν ώ - ρε - σι ποι - με - νες άν - δρες  
i - an tan i - a - kin - thon en o - re - si pi - me - nes an - dres

S.

οί - αν οί - αν οί - αν οί - αν οί - αν οί - αν  
i - an i - an i - an i - an i - an i - an

M-S.

οί - αν οί - αν οί - αν οί - αν οί - αν οί - αν  
i - an i - an i - an i - an i - an i - an

A.

δω  
- do

οί - αν οί - αν οί - αν οί - αν οί - αν οί - αν  
i - an i - an i - an i - an i - an i - an

Like the hyacinth which shepherds on the hillsides trample underfoot,  
and on the ground the crimson flower...

89

Voice

πόσ-σι κα-τα-στεί-βοι-σι, χά-μαι δε το πόρ-φυ-ρον άν-θος...  
 po-si ka-ta-sti-vi-si, ha-me de to por-fi-ron an-thos...

S.

πόρ-φυ-ρον υ-ά-κιν-θον κα-τα-στεί βοι-σι  
 por-fi-ron i-a-kin-thon ka-ta-sti-vi-si

M-S.

πόρ-φυ-ρον υ-ά-κιν-θον κα-τα-στεί βοι-σι  
 por-fi-ron i-a-kin-thon ka-ta-sti-vi-si

A.

πόρ-φυ-ρον υ-ά-κιν-θον κα-τα-στεί βοι-σι  
 por-fi-ron i-a-kin-thon ka-ta-sti-vi-si

94

Voice

*ff* *it is not for me to touch the sky with my two hands*  
 ψαύ-ην δ'ου δο-κί-μωμ' ο-ρά-νω δύ-σι πά-χε-σι-ν  
 psav-in dou do-ki-mom o-ra-no di-si pa-he-si-n

S.

ψαύ-ην δ'ου δο-κί-μωμ' ο-ρά-νω δύ-σι πά-χε-σιν δύ-σι  
 psav-in dou do-ki-mom o-ra-no di-si pa-he-sin di-si

M-S.

ψαύ-ην δ'ου δο-κί-μωμ' ο-ρά-νω δύ-σι πά-χε-σιν δύ-σι  
 psav-in dou do-ki-mom o-ra-no di-si pa-he-sin di-si

A.

ψαύ-ην δ'ου δο-κί-μωμ' ο-ρά-νω δύ-σι πά-χε-σιν δύ-σι  
 psav-in dou do-ki-mom o-ra-no di-si pa-he-sin di-si

100

Voice

*mf* *and I long and suffer*  
 και πο-θή-ω και μά-ο-μαι  
 ke po-thi-o ke ma-o-me

S.

πά-χε-σι-ν και πο-θή-ω και μά-ο-μαι  
 pa-he-si-n ke po-thi-o ke ma-o-me

M-S.

πά-χε-σι-ν και πο-θή-ω και μά-ο-μαι  
 pa-he-si-n ke po-thi-o ke ma-o-me

A.

πά-χε-σι-ν και πο-θή-ω και μά-ο-μαι  
 pa-he-si-n ke po-thi-o ke ma-o-me

106 *f* you have forgotten me

Voice

é - με - θεν δέ - χησ - θα λά - θαν  
 e - me - then de - his - tha la - than

S. *mf* *f*

έ - με - θεν έ - με - θεν έ - με - θεν λά - θαν έ - με - θεν  
 e - me - then e - me - then e - me - then la - than e - me - then

M-S. *mf* *f*

έ - με - θεν έ - με - θεν έ - με - θεν λά - θαν έ - με - θεν  
 e - me - then e - me - then e - me - then la - than e - me - then

A. *mf* *f*

έ - με - θεν έ - με - θεν έ - με - θεν λά - θαν έ - με - θεν  
 e - me - then e - me - then e - me - then la - than e - me - then

112

Voice

S.

δέ - χησ - θα λά - θαν λα -  
 de - his - tha la - than la -

M-S.

δέ - χησ - θα λά - θαν -  
 de - his - tha la - than

A.

δέ - χησ - θα λά - θαν λα - θαν  
 de - his - tha la - than la - than

116

Voice

S. *ppp*

λα - θαν  
 la - than

M-S. *ppp*

θαν λα - θαν  
 than la - than

A. *ppp*

λα - θαν  
 la - than

# AFRODITA

## 1. ΥΜΝΟΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΦΡΟΔΙΤΗ *Hymn to Afrodite (Venus)*

version b: for Mezzo-soprano solo with lyre acc.

*The only complete extant text by Sappho, is composed in Sappho's modus (mixolydian), and in a concious effort throughout the whole piece to keep the prosody intact. Ideally it should be performed accompagnied in an improvvisatory manner by a lyre (when available), or by another sound-equivalent instrument, like the lute, for ex., thus trying to emulate the ancient practice of performance of Sappho's lyrical poetry.*

Immortal Aphrodite on your richly crafted throne,  
daughter of Zeus, weaver of snares, I beg you,  
do not with sorrows and with pains subdue  
my heart, O Lady,

but come to me, if ever at another time as well,  
hearing my voice from far away,  
you heeded it, and leaving your father's house  
of gold, you came,

yoking your chariot. Graceful sparrows  
brought you swiftly over the black earth,  
with a thick whirring of wings, from heaven down  
through the middle air.

Suddenly they were here, and you, O Blessed,  
with a smile on your immortal face  
asked me what was wrong this time, and why  
I called you this time,

and what in my maddened heart I wanted most  
to happen. "Whom shall I persuade this time  
to welcome you in friendship? Who is it,  
Sappho, that wrongs you?"

For if she flees now, soon she shall pursue;  
if she refuses presents, she shall give them;  
if she does not love, soon she shall love  
even against her will."

Come to me now as well; release me from  
this agony; all that my heart yearns  
to be achieved, achieve, and be yourself  
my ally in arms.

SAPPHO (ca 630-ca 560 B.C.)

Marilena Zlatanou (2008)

Voice

Ποι - κι - λόθ - ρον' α - θα - νάτ' Αφ - ρό - δι - τα, παι Δί - ος δο - λό - πλο - κε, λίσ - σο μαί σε,  
Pi - ki - loth - ron a - tha nat A - fro - di - ta, pe Di - os do - lo - plo - ke li - so me se,

μη μ'ά - σαι - σι μηδ' ο - νί - αι - σι δάμ - να, πότ - νι - α, θύ - μον,  
mi ma - se si mid o - ni - e si dam - na pot - ni - a thi - mon,

6  
αλ - λά τύ - ιδ' έλθ', αί πο - τα κα - τέ - ρω - τα τας έ - μας αύ - δας αί - οι - σα πή - λοι  
al - la ti - id elth, e po - ta ka - te - ro - ta tas e - mas av - das e - i - sa pi - li

8

έκ - λυ - ες, πάτ - ρος δε δό - μον λί - ποι σα χρύ - σι - ον ήλ - θες  
ek - li - es pat - tros de do - mon li - pi - sa hri - si - on il - thes

11

άρμ' υ - πα - δεύ - ξαι - σα, κά - λον δε σ'ά - γον ώ - κε - ες στρού - θοι πε - ρί γας με - λαί - νας  
arm i - pa - def - xa - sa ka - lon de sa - gon o - ke - es strou - thi pe - ri gas me - le - nas

13

πύκ - να δίν - νεν - τες πτερ' απ' ω - ρά - νω - ι - θε ρος δι - ά μέσ - σω  
pik - na di - nen - des pter ap o - ra - no - i - the ros di - a me - so

16

αί - ψα δ'ε - ξί - κον - το, συ δ'ω μά - και - ρα, μει - δι - αί - σαισ'α - θα - νά - τω προ - σώ - πω  
e - psa de - xi - kon - do si do - ma - ke - ra mi - di - e - ses a - tha - na - to pro - so - po

18

ή - ρε ότ - τι δη - ύ - τε πέ - πον - θα κότ - τι δη - ύ - τε κάλ - λη - μι,  
i - re o - ti di - i - te pe - pon - tha ko - ti di - i - te ka - li - mi,

21

κότ - τι μοι μά - λισ - τα θέ - λω γέ - νεσ - θαι μαι - νό - λα θύ - μω, τί - να δη - ύ - τε πεί - θω  
ko - ti mi ma - lis - ta the - lo ye - nes - the me - no - la thi - mo, ti - na di - i - te pi - tho

23

αψ σ'ά - γην ες άν φι - λό - τα - τα; τις σ'ω Ψαπφ', α - δι - κή - ει; \_\_\_\_\_  
aps sa - gi - nes an fi - lo - ta - ta tis so Psapf a di - ki - i \_\_\_\_\_

26

και γαρ αι φεύ - γει, τα - χέ - ως δι - ώ - ξει, αι δε δώ - ρα μη δέ - κετ' αλ - λά δώ - σει  
ke gar e fev - gi, ta - he - os di - o - xi, e de do - ra mi de - ket a - la do - si

28

αι δε μη φί - λει, τα - χέ - ως φι - λή - σει κω - υκ ε - θε - λοι - σα.  
e de mi fi - li, ta - he - os fi - li - si ko - ik e - the - li - sa

31

Έλ - θε μοι και νυν, χα - λέ - παν δε λύ - σον εκ με - ρίμ - ναν, όσ - σα δε μοι τέ - λεσ - σαι  
El - the mi ke nin, ha - le - pan de li - son ek me - rim - nan, o - sa de mi te - le - se

33

θύ - μος ι - μέρ ροι, τέ - λε - σον, συ δ'αύ - τα σύμ - μα - χος έσ - σο. σύμ - μα - χος έσ - σο  
thi - mos i - mer ri, te - le - son, si daf - ta si - ma - hos e - so. si - ma - hos e - so